

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 15-16 remain pending.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Maillefer. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, to advance prosecution, claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection has been mooted.

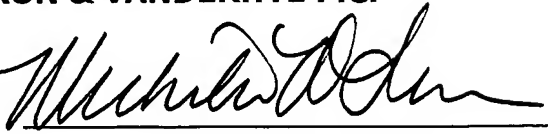
Claims 7-8 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Rauwendaal and further in view of Street. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, to advance prosecution, claim 7-8 and 11-12 have been canceled without prejudice. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection has been mooted.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-6 and 15-16 are allowed.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

YAMAGUCHI et al
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Respectfully submitted,
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